7. New Telephone exchanges will be opened subject to registeration of requisite paid demands and technical feasibility.

(b) 1993-94

1. A 3000 lines modern electronic telephone exchange is planned for installation at Tadepalligudem in replacement of existing exchange equipments.

2. 10 Nos. of small electromechanical exchanges have been planned for replacement by modern electronic exchanges to provide improved service to customers.

3. The remaining 5 Panchayat villages will be provided with telephone facility.

4. Local and STD PCOs will be provided subject to technical feasibility, suitability and demand on franchise basis.

5. A telecom. Centre is planned to be opened at Tadepalligudem Bazar. Bureaufax facility will be introduced at Nidadavole.

6. New Telephone Exchanges will be opened subject to registration of requisite paid demands and technical feasibility.

7. Out of total 14 Taluk Headquarters in West Godavari District, 10 are already provided with STD facility. 2 Taluk Headquarters have been planned for provision of STD facility during 1993-94 and the remaining 2 during 1994-95 depending upon technical feasibility.

Fraud in making international telephone

1215. SHRI N. E. BALARAM :
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA :
SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH :
SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have constituted a high level committee to probe the nation wide racket in illegal international and national telephone calls;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how many officers and employees of the MTNL have been suspended so far after one such racket was unearthed by the surprise raid by the Minister himself;

(d) the amount of loss caused to Government on this account; and

(e) what remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) and (b) A proposal is under consideration of Government to constitute a Committee to examine malpractices resulting in loss of telephone revenue and to suggest remedial measures.

(c) One Sub-divisional Officer and Junior Telecom Officer of MTNL have been suspended and disciplinary action has been initiated.

(d) The exact amount of loss has not been estimated.

(e) Active assistance of CBI is being taken to deal with such cases. Four special cells of CBI, each under the charge of a Superintendent of Police are being set up in the four Metropolitan Cities to deal with such cases in coordination with the Departmental Officers.

Operation of Dish Antena and Cable T

1216. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH :
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report published in the Hindustan Times dated the 12th September, 1992 captioned "Dish Violate Act"

(b) if so, whether Government have since considered the question of violation of the Indian Telegraph Act by the operation of Dish Antenna and Cable TVs for enjoying foreign TV transmissions; and

(c) if so, what precise steps are contemplated by Government in this regard to bring the law in conformity with the requirements of the people and the universal right to information ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The issues regarding Cable T. V. Dish Antenna are currently under the active consideration of the Government.

Complaints against Postal delays

1217. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of complaints received by Government with regard to tardy delivery of mail during the last three years; and

(b) what measures have been taken by Government to improve the system ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) The Department registered the following number of complaints about delay in delivery of mails.

Year	No. of complaints about delay in delivery
1989-90 . . .	69945
1990-91 . . .	77264
1991-92 . . .	77281

(b) Department has introduced periodical review of complaints to identify the reasons and to introduce appropriate corrective measures such as :

(i) Revision of transmission system

(ii) quality control measures

(iii) Constant coordination with Transport Agencies

(iv) Deployment of staff to needy offices

(v) Close inter-action with the Members of public through Post Forum, Dak Adalat and Open House Sessions

(vi) Punitive action against the staff found responsible

(vii) Constant monitoring both at the field and Headquarters levels.

Cost of operation of mobile cellur telephone

1218. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has called for fresh International tenders for providing mobile cellular telephone services in the metropolitan cities in the country;

(b) if so, what is the likely rate for cellular phone calls as compared to conventional stationery phone calls in Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras; and

(c) what is likely amount of foreign exchange out flow in operation thereof indicating as to the number of tenders finalised so far, both old as well as new and names of parties to whom contracts have been awarded for this purpose by the DOT ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) No, Sir. No International tenders have been called. Tenders are called earlier from Indian Companies in collaboration with foreign Companies with a view to licence the Cellular Mobile Operation in the four Metro Cities of Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and Madras.

(b) and (c) 8 parties were provisionally selected but since two of the unsuccessful biddars have gone to the Court, the matter is subjudice. However, as per the tender condition, foreign partners have to meet the entire foreign exchange requirement